

# The Crippled Turtle

## Piecing together the food-hunger problem

A publication of *The Chart*  
October 20, 1983

## The Crippled Turtle Legend

A legend of the Wyandot Indian tribe says that, in the beginning of time, the world was inhabited by only two persons, the First Man and the First Woman. They became parents of a daughter who grew to be a beautiful maiden. The three lived happily, but after a time the daughter became ill. To save her life, the parents determined to cut down the tree of life. But the daughter, realizing that destroying the tree of life would also mean death for her parents, hurled herself into "the great void."

She fell into the Lower World which was totally covered by water. The creatures which inhabited the deep came to her rescue, but realizing their efforts were futile, summoned a great turtle. She then lived upon the back of this turtle, and in time this turtle became the Earth. It is upon this Earth we now live.

This is only the fourth edition of *The Crippled Turtle*. Not since October, 1980, has an edition been published. The editors of the first edition, which was published in May, 1976, wrote: "We...believe that as the Earth has been ravaged by the pollution of the air, land, and water, so the legendary turtle of the Wyandot tribe has become slowly crippled. But he is not crippled irrevocably. The fate of the great turtle and the Earth remains in the hand of mankind."

The concern of the editors of that first *Crippled Turtle* was pollution—the pollution of the air, water, sky, land, and life itself. It was written in that edition: "Once it was an earth which was a great treasurehouse of resources offering each man an ample opportunity to confront nature on his own terms—to rule it or ultimately to be ruled by it..."

The second edition of *The Crippled Turtle*, published in December, 1979, dealt with human nature and human rights. The eroding of those rights, illustrated by the Iranian crisis, threatened human existence.

The concern of the third *Crippled Turtle* was Campaign 1980—Issues for a Decade. The American electorate held in their hands an opportunity not given to all the people of the world—the power, the right, the duty to vote for the candidates of their choice.

It is our concern in this edition of *The Crippled Turtle* that World food supplies are not equally distributed throughout the globe. This results in the starvation and death of millions of people each year. We feel that better cooperation among developed and with developing nations would do much to eliminate this world concern.

The purpose of this edition is to create a greater awareness among the college community of the challenge that the future holds in regard to world hunger.

Stories for this edition were written by A. John Baker, editor-in-chief of *The Chart*, and Daphne Massa, executive manager of *The Chart*. Richard Williams assisted in layout and design.

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Meals for Millions/Freedom from Hunger Foundation

Organization of American States

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

International Rice Research Institute

Catholic Relief Services

National Committee for World Food Day

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### Sponsoring a child

The Chart is sponsoring a child through the Christian Children's Fund.

Surendar, an eight year old male, lives in Jaipur, India.

He and his family have been described by a CCP staff member as a "socially backward and economically poor Hindu family."

His father is a sweeper and his income is not adequate for his wife and two children. His mother is a housewife; she also does some sweeping work on a small salary.

There are no electrical, water, or sanitation hook-ups available in their village.

Surendar cannot write but he attends school. According to his Field Representative he passes his examinations and has improved physically since the project started in December.

1982.

In this project 300 children are being helped. The project, Agro Family Helper Project provides children protein rich supplementary nutritions. It also provides younger children with a pre-education. Under this project children also receive health care and clothing.

Surendar and his family live in a semi-arid climate and speak Marathi and Hindi.

The money sent by The Chart helps Surendar go to school, get balanced meals, get medical attention when needed, and provides his clothing he might not get otherwise.

Most importantly it aids in reducing the number of hungry people in the world.

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# WORLD FOOD DAY



Sunday was World Food Day, dealing with one of the

day was the anniversary of the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Quebec City, Canada.

It had an original membership of 43 nations. It has since grown to 152.

Through those years the basic purpose is still the same: to ease production, improved distribution of food and other agricultural goods, to improve human nutrition levels and to promote the well-being of people.

The United States and Canada hold more than two thirds of grain exports, two thirds of all food, and one third of the world's grain reserve.

According to Patricia Young, National Coordinator for World Food Day, "All voices must be heard on this day, daily the silent voices of the hungry. Our answers must be heard, too, even if it takes the rest of our lives."

Spokane, Nev., has taken part in a World Food Day celebration since its beginning in 1981. Their first WFD was organized with the help of the Community Food and Nutrition Program and the Community Services Agency.

The raiser for the community Food Bank was the Miss America campaign. Community citizens were asked to miss one meal on Oct. 16 and donate the cost to the Food Bank. Approximately \$1,300 was raised.

Leila Leslie, director of the Community Food Bank in Spokane, said, "We found it to be true that everyone can do something, and the sum of the individual efforts is truly great."

Each year is also an opportunity to report the pro-

gress made in the fight against hunger.

It appears that many people try to blame hunger problems on the weather. Yet World Food experts say it is not traceable to weather but to the failure of political will and policies.

In the 1982-83 WFD report it explained that it was a year of *El Nino* (the child in Spanish). This Pacific Ocean current destroyed lives, crops and property. *El Nino* brought drought, torrential rain and floods to countries on five continents.

The 1983 WFD was the ninth national attempt to gain control of a world wide problem. Since the beginning of WFD it has created the World Food Council, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Emergency Food Reserve, a new Food Aid Convention, the new food compensatory financing window at the IMF, the growth of agricultural lending by the World Bank and the Global Information and Early Warning System of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

There have been other commitments by the World Food Conference ministers. They wanted national governments to target a four per cent increase in agricultural production, a minimum of 10 million tons of food aid, and the creation of a world food security reserve system.

World Food Day is an organized effort to reduce the number of people who experience hunger daily.

Health professions and the National World Food Day committee are working on a World Health Day project which is scheduled for April 17.

Work has already begun on WFD 1984. It will mark the 10th anniversary of the World Food Conference, held in Rome, in which all governments pledged to eliminate hunger within a decade.

# The paradox of hunger

World hunger has been a topic of major discussion for years. Even on Southern's campus it has sparked attention.

Professor of Agricultural Economics, Harold Breimyer, from the University of Missouri-Columbia, spoke here in February of 1981.

He said that hunger is an issue that concerns us all. In the word *homo-sapiens*, he explained, *homo* is the animal within us and *sapiens* is the spirit. The spirit is basically concerned each for the other.

During 1981, Breimyer said that Missourians and others feel that the United States' role in the World Food scenario is self determining.

He talked about other countries' dependence on the United States for food. "We depend on the rest of the world for minerals" just as they depend on us for food.

Using an overhead projector Breimyer listed the percentage of certain minerals which the United States imported for industrial use: bauxite (used in making aluminum), 95 per cent; chromium (essential for the production of steel), 92 per cent; tin, 71 per cent; tungsten, 50 per cent; silver, 41 per cent; gypsum, 34 per cent; iron ore, 29 per cent; and copper, 19 per cent.

World hunger is not just a population problem, said Breimyer. People think that if developing nations can-

trol their population growth there would be less starvation, he said.

"There is enough food," Breimyer said. "The total amount of food is adequate but the distribution is inadequate." He explained that the United States' main problem with nutrition is obesity.

According to some, the answer to the food problem is for every nation to produce its own food. Breimyer said, "Nothing could be further from the truth." All nations must trade for things which they do not have.

"To be sure, any help we can give any country at improving agricultural production is a positive benefit," said Breimyer.

He described the "horns of the U.S. dilemma" as being: 1) a widening food deficit; 2) a three-way tug-of-war for access; and 3) limited production capacity.

The value of exports has increased from 10 million in 1972 to 40 billion in 1980. As Breimyer put it, this is an enormous increase.

He gave figures for exports: 95 per cent of exports are "cash-on-the-barrel-head" or commercial; five per cent are concessional (half of this is given away). Breimyer illustrated this by saying that the amount of exports actually given away would be equivalent, in dollar terms, to a two dollar donation by every person in the U.S.

People have often thought the U.S. has been extremely gracious but the figures do not show it, Breimyer said.

He said that Japan is our biggest single buyer. They buy four to five billion dollars of food per year. "We have sold abroad all of our increased production. We have also had a slow increase in livestock production in the last 15 years. We have thrown increased production efforts into exports instead of livestock and poultry," said Breimyer.

As a result, the dietary habits of people in the United States have changed from livestock to more crop products, explained Breimyer. He went on to say that on a per capita basis livestock is on a steady line.

Another idea Breimyer explained was that hunger is not just a food production problem, but a social one. The rich get the most; the poor get what is left over.

Concerning reserves Breimyer felt that countries want to be sure that suppliers can fill the order. Products have to be available when needed and other countries need to know we have it.

Breimyer felt that it is good to have reserves but they have to be built up. "They have a purpose," he said. "You can not keep trade up if you can't fill the orders."

## Enough food to feed everyone

In Memphis, Tenn., a short course on World Food problems was held. Two of Southern's biology professors attended.

The course, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and American Association for the Advancement of Science, was headed by Lloyd S. Slater in 1981.

Slater now works for the Academy of Independent Scholars.

Dr. Orry Orr, professor of biology, and Dr. Gerald Elick, associate professor of biology and geology, attended the seminar.

Elick said there is enough food produced to feed everyone in the world. Both Elick and Orr agree there is an improper or inequitable distribution of

that food.

Dr. Elick was involved in a study on crop production to determine whether or not the five states could produce enough corn to feed the world. Within the five cornbelt states, including parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, it was hypothesized and verified that they could raise enough corn to feed the world. The problem arose: would everyone want to eat corn? They decided the answer was probably no.

Orr explained that in Africa there are "tropical areas under luxuriant vegetation. There is land that can be used but it is not because it costs too much to clear and take care of." Therefore much of Africa's land that

could be productive is not used.

The main point that Slater stressed in his course, said Elick, is that climatic changes are a factor of the food problems.

Elick gave the example of a country that raises fish during its wet season and during the dry season they plant melons in the same location.

Another problem noted by both professors was population control. Elick looked at a graph for the average life expectancy of a South American. He said, "It looks like the point where 50 per cent of the population has died in the 25-29 age category."

Another problem with crop production is that insects destroy 60-70 per cent of the crops.

Orr explained that some countries had an extensive type of techniques. They farmed plots, used a lot of fertilizer and equipment. Other countries have intensive farming. They use available. "In some cases right up to their front door."

In the buying of food, "There was no economic base. Their land does not produce to buy with. We can't buy food over without them pay."

He went on to explain the natural resources such as fish, or livestock to purchase food.

# The cost of hunger

Hunger not only affects countries abroad but also the United States.

Again it is the poor people who are hungry, the people who do not have the money to spend on the necessities of life.

America's hungry involve mostly Native Americans, Blacks, Chicanos, and Puerto Ricans.

Governmental statistics decide what is poverty. They use information on the minimal cost for food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. They break it up in thirds: food, shelter, and other expenses.

According to statistics in *Engage/Social Action*, April 1977, "In 1974 a person at the poverty line in a family of four would have \$1.15 per day to spend on food. But in that same year 50 per cent of the people below the poverty line received an average of \$1,538 below the median."

Ernest Hollings, an ex-senator for the state of South Carolina, writes in his book *The Case Against Hunger: A Demand for a National Policy*, about his state's reaction to hunger. "Hunger wasn't a problem to solve, it was a problem to hide...How could 'X' corporation make a good name for itself by demeaning the area or talking about people starving? Perhaps this is why the largest industry in America—the food industry—has never given leadership to solving hunger...They oppose the feeding programs because these attack the company's pride and profit margins."

The attitude of hiding or ignoring the problem of hunger seems to be taken by many. Without everyone's help the problem will continue and grow.

One man wanted to raise \$15 million dollars for hunger. Bob Wieland called

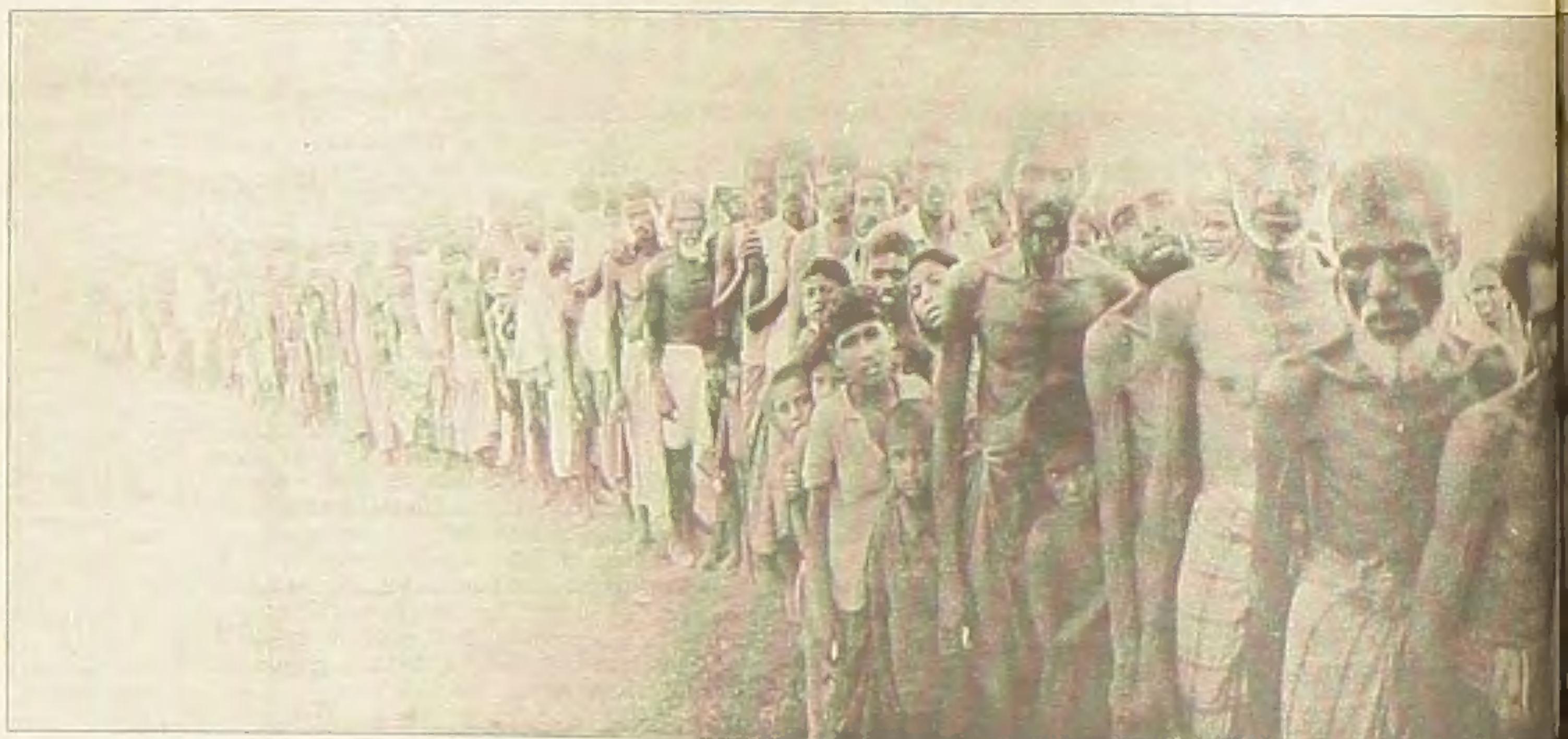
this campaign "The Walk for Hunger". The extraordinary thing about Wieland is that he lost both legs in Vietnam. Wieland was to walk from Buena Park, Calif., to Washington D.C.; a total of 2,770 miles.

When the United States has a water shortage we do not seem to think too much of it. We usually just try to conserve water. But when Africa has a water shortage they call it a drought and many lives are lost.

If there are people starving, is there a justification for putting money into an arms race with Russia? Missouri Senator Jack Danforth expresses the opinion that the countries could put the funds being used into a cooperative fund to help rid the world of hunger. Danforth feels that hunger is a problem that needs to be solved and that there needs to be greater involvement of the U.S.

UN Photo 145157  
By U. M. M. M.





United Nations J.P. Laffont

## Defining malnutrition

Malnutrition is difficult to define in terms with which everyone will agree, but the fact remains that a major portion of the world's population is underfed and dying.

Disagreement over what constitutes malnutrition flourishes, but there seems to be little doubt that it is a major problem in many developing countries.

*Seeds* magazine in an article entitled "Global Assessment of Food" addresses the problem of accuracy when dealing with "hunger statistics used by governments and international agencies." This is done by quoting the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and pointing out the "stringent measuring techniques which the FAO uses."

According to the FAO, 450 million people are suffering from severe undernutrition. Undernutrition refers to an intake of calories which is less than the Basic Metabolic Rate (BMR) of 1.2.

At rest the human body must consume calories equivalent to one BMR; this is the minimum intake to sustain life when no work or exertion occurs. Therefore undernutrition by this definition, which requires that a person takes in only one-fifth more calorie energy than it takes to maintain the body, would seem to be a conservative estimate.

Twelve countries continually top the list of nations with major undernourishment problems among its people.

These 12 countries along with FAO estimates as to the number of undernourished are: India, 201 million; Indonesia, 33 million; Bangladesh, 27 million; Nigeria, 14 million; Brazil, 12 million; Ethiopia, 12 million; Pakistan, 12 million; the Phillipines, 10 million; Afghanistan, 8 million; Burma, 5 million; Columbia, 5 million; and Thailand, 5 million.

Eating insufficient food is noted by the FAO in its 1983 World Food Report as being the most common cause of malnutrition. And the report adds that most often this is the result of poverty.

Looking to Webster's Third New International Dictionary poverty is defined as "meagerness of supply." The poverty-stricken people of the world simply do not have the means to supply themselves with adequate nourishment—neither through purchase or self-help.

The poverty-malnutrition relationship is not an easy issue to analyze. Medical, cultural, economical, as well as nutritional aspects are involved.

Many diseases develop from the lack of a single nutrient; these diseases produce extremely harmful affects.

Insufficient Vitamin A consumption, known as xerophthalmia, "causes about a quarter of a million children to go blind each year," states the 1983 World Food Report. The report also lists the effects of iodine and iron deficiency.

Iodine deficiency is reported among 200 million people. In situations like these iodine deficiency causes mental instability.

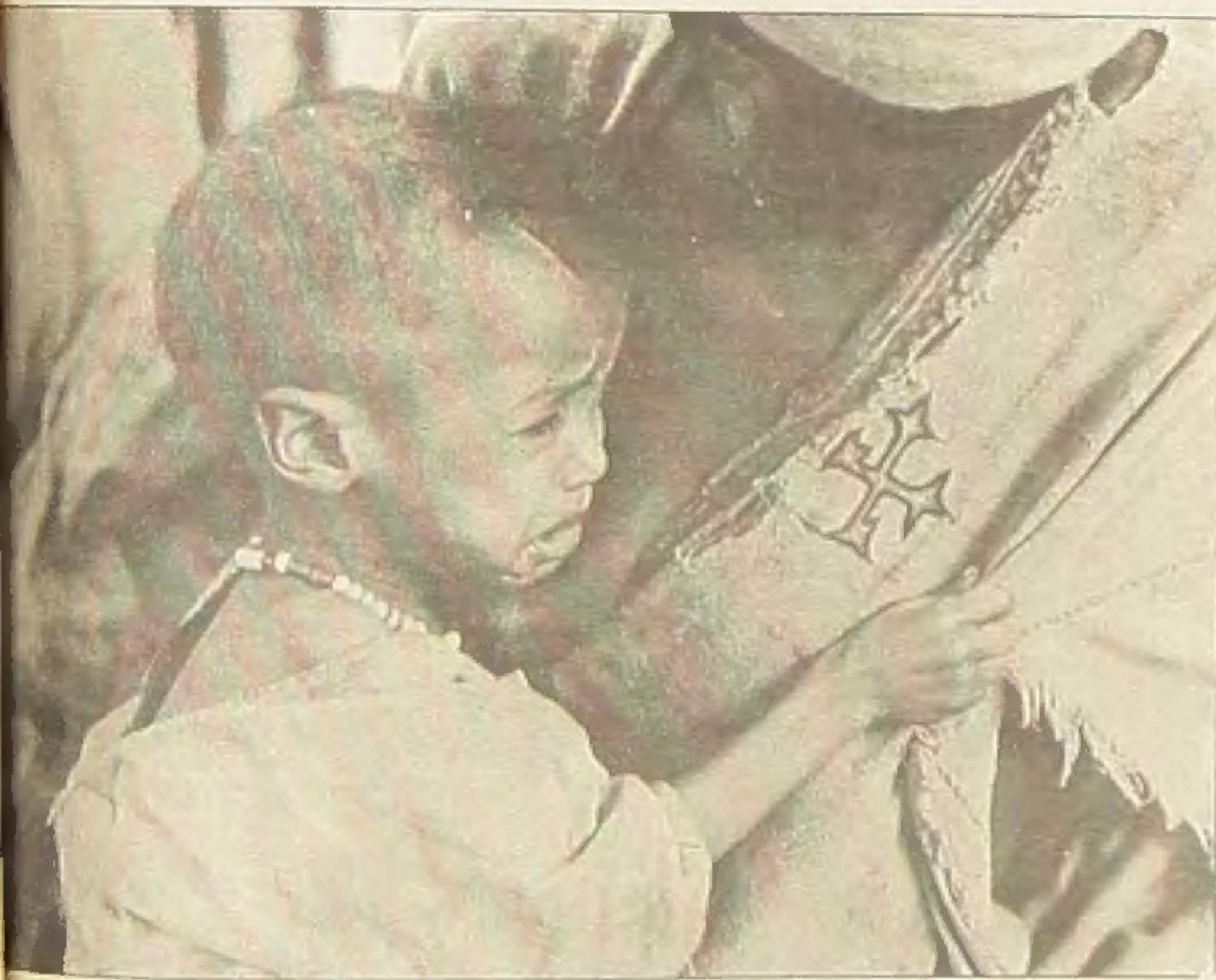
Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia and the report out that its occurrence in developing nations is widespread. An analysis of surveys recently in nine countries has shown an average of anemia averaging no less than 50 per cent among children under five.

In "Nutrition and Human Voluntary Agencies: The Challenge?" a pamphlet published by Save the Children, David L. Guyer states that "more than two-thirds of the 800 million children growing up in the poor nations are expected to encounter sickness and disabilities either brought on by poverty or aggravated by protein-calorie malnutrition."

Guyer also quotes a World Health Organization estimate that 40 per cent of these children under five, "suffer from some form of malnutrition."

While mothers and children in those countries who need the most help are often the ones who receive the least. This practice is not considered normal. Seeds printed that "for reasons, women may be the last in the family to eat..."

An essay written by Ing-



Issued by the FAO in conjunction with World Food Day illustrates the importance of women to nutrition. Palmer writes in "Women, Food Chains and Agrarian Reform," that though both women and men may share some or all of the family's food requirements, women bear the responsibility of managing the family's nutrition.

It would seem to indicate a dire need to educate women and mothers in developed countries and that is what many organizations are doing.

The Association of Christian Women in Action teaches homemaking skills, crafts, literacy, and Bible classes in Port-au-Prince, according to the September 1983 issue of *World Vision*. This is just one agency; others work directly with educating women through special programs initiated by Save the Children, Christian Services, UNICEF, American Friends from Hunger Foundation, and many, many others.

One organization, the Agency for International Development's Office of Women in Development will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 1984. Considering women to be resources for development is a viewpoint that the Office of Women in Development (WID) emphasizes for the future. The July/August edition of *WID News*, an AID monthly publication, clarifies this point in an article titled "Integrating Women into Development—An investment in capital." The story states:

"Women are resources for development. They are producers of goods and services, contributing to national, social and economical growth."

The article goes on to state the importance of this development by adding, "If effective and productive development is to occur, the whole society must be included. Both community and national productivity will lag if women are ignored."

Some might view this as an overstatement, but when looking at the contributions women make to the economic well-being of developing nations the importance of this statement becomes clear.

Again Palmer's writing of "Women, Food Chains and Agrarian Reform" offers some insight into the economic importance of women. It states, "...for it is the women who take responsibility for the family chores as well as for part of the food production and marketing." Later Palmer adds, "Women share in or are solely responsible for the cultivation of food crops. They also grind cereal, monitor the food store, prepare and cook the food, and sometimes apportion food helpings to family members according to their current energy requirements."

This is reinforced by further statements of WID showing that women in developing countries are responsible for 60-80 per cent of all agricultural work, and as entrepreneurs, "their substantial contribution to national economy has been frequently overlooked. . . ."



(Above) World Food Programme, by B. Innes (Below) United Nations, by Wolff



## Invisible killer

Malnutrition in children is not easily seen. There

may be no visible signs, yet the problem still exists. Invisible malnutrition involves approximately one-fourth of all children in the developing nations, UNICEF reported in a "1983 State of the World's Children" perspective.

UNICEF said that every day last year, some 40,000 young children died from malnutrition and infection. And for every one who has died, six more live on in a hunger and ill-health which will be forever etched upon their lives."

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said that if present trends continue, by year 2,000 will witness "a horrifying increase in the



## children

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(Clockwise from lower left) United Nations, by Jerry Frank;  
United Nations, by Arild Volland; Save the Children, by Joe Loya;  
Save the Children, by P. Cavendish; Save the Children, by Arild  
Volland; United Nations 1416156 by Michael

# Mistakes in developing countries

Hunger is a problem experienced all over the globe, but the problem is of greater magnitude in countries that are struggling to meet the food needs of their peoples. These are the "developing nations" of the world.

Up to now, the people of these countries have not been able to fully meet their food needs, although some are making vast strides of improvement.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, in a special report for the January 1983 issue of the *U.N. Chronicle*, stated that in the last two decades developing nations had made "remarkable" achievements. "Food production, on the average, has grown faster than in developed countries."

Africa, a continent significantly afflicted with food-hunger problems, also recorded rates of food production growth at a rate even with developed countries, according to the special report.

This increase in food production is good; however, when compared to the population increases among developed and developing nations the increases become less significant.

The same special report prepared by the FAO explains the problem of

"simultaneous growth" where population figures in developing nations grew at a rate of 2.6 per cent a year over the last 20 years, nearly twice the growth rate in developed countries.

The report goes on to say that food production must increase at a greater pace or by the year 2000 there will be 590 million malnourished people in the world.

Thus the problems confronting the developing countries emerge as a mixture of pros and cons.

The introduction of new technology seems to illustrate the complex balance of these issues.

A five-part series published Monday through Friday, Sept. 26-30, in the *Kansas City Times* points to many of the problems experienced when new technology is presented to a developing nation.

"The Hunger Game: Our wasted foreign aid" was the title of the series of articles which showed time and time again that U.S. foreign aid was mishandled and wasted.

The Times quotes a U.S. Government Accounting office (GAO) report which describes the complexities of a "bakery program" that never got off the ground for various reasons.

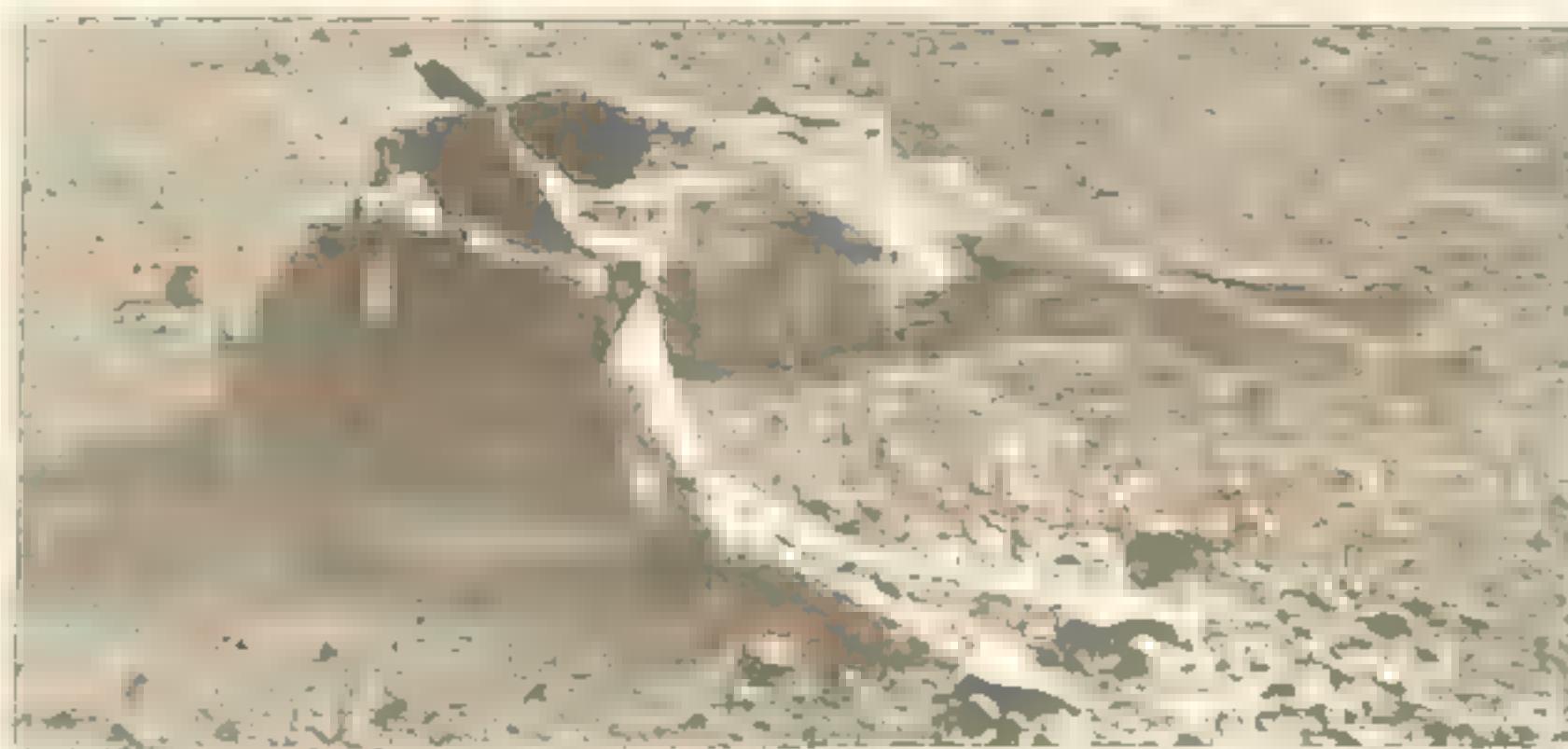
For the purpose of this article, to show the contradictory confusion of technology, only one portion of the Times story will be used. "In the end, the GAO audit concludes, AID avoided congressional oversight and violated basic requirements of the Foreign Assistance Act, which 'encourages private initiative and competition, promotes avoidance of monopolistic practices, encourages labor-intensive projects and places emphasis on providing aid to the rural poor.'

"The bakery project will produce the opposite effects, the audit declares. 'It will reduce private enterprise and competition, tend to reinforce the government of Egypt's monopolistic influences on the bakery industry and only marginally help the rural poor.'"

This expresses the problem of new technology along with the problem posed due to political philosophy. The FAO 1983 World Food Report mentions the fact that not all developing nations put crop production and hunger satisfaction on the top of the priorities lists. And it explains that some of these nations are more concerned with industrializing themselves.



Food and Agriculture Organization, by F. Natioli



Death from starvation has been reported in many areas of the world. But of all the world areas, drought and famine seem to hit Africa the hardest and most frequent.

Africa has been hit by "freak" weather; according to World Food Day report 1982-83, 20 countries experienced increased hunger and abnormal food shortages brought on by drought.

A severe drought hit most of the sub-Saharan region.

Food production in Africa has not matched the population growth in at least 20 years. The average African has less access to food than he did 10 years ago. Dietary standards on the average have fallen below nutritional requirements.

Also, the decrease in food production plays a part in the shortages of food.

Poverty is the main cause of chronic dietary deficiencies. Famine and hunger are suffered by poverty stricken societies, social groups, and households.

Over the years the demand for and supply of food has grown disproportionately.

Food policies and strategies must be devised and set into action. Together these can help eliminate poverty, thus bringing a significant and permanent rise in income and an improvement in its distribution.

Africa has large areas that are famine prone. Almost all countries of

the region face hunger and recurrent food shortages. The greatest risk of hunger is in the arid and semi-arid regions. These zones are characterized by a limited amount of rainfall, small localized water sources on the surface and scarce vegetation.

Many people try to categorize the causes of famine and hunger into "natural" and "man-made". As explained in *Famine in Africa* by the Organization of African Unity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "...natural causes themselves at least in part are often the result of action or lack of action by man."

It further said that there is no "natural" cause that is "independent of or beyond human action."

Famine and hunger in Africa have resulted from a combination of breakdown in the structure of society and its systems, population technology, and the environment's physical aspects.

Droughts have caused many of Africa's food shortages. They seem to hit at least once a year somewhere in Africa, reported the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Droughts obviously affect crop production, both food and cash. Thus if a community or individual cannot produce food for themselves, they will not be able to buy from someone else.

Population growth in Africa is three per cent yearly. Towns grow almost 10 per cent every year, taking workers

# Africa: the hardest hit

from the rural farm areas. This fact also cause a decrease in food production.

And food production currently increases less than two per cent a year.

Technology in Africa is another problem. Adapted technological advances are not spread throughout the country. Farming tools are not advanced. The low level of technology hampers food supply even in good climate and soil.

Storage and the transport of food is another technological handicap.

At one time in Africa there was a great deal of communal land ownership. Now private land ownership allows for security against food emergencies.

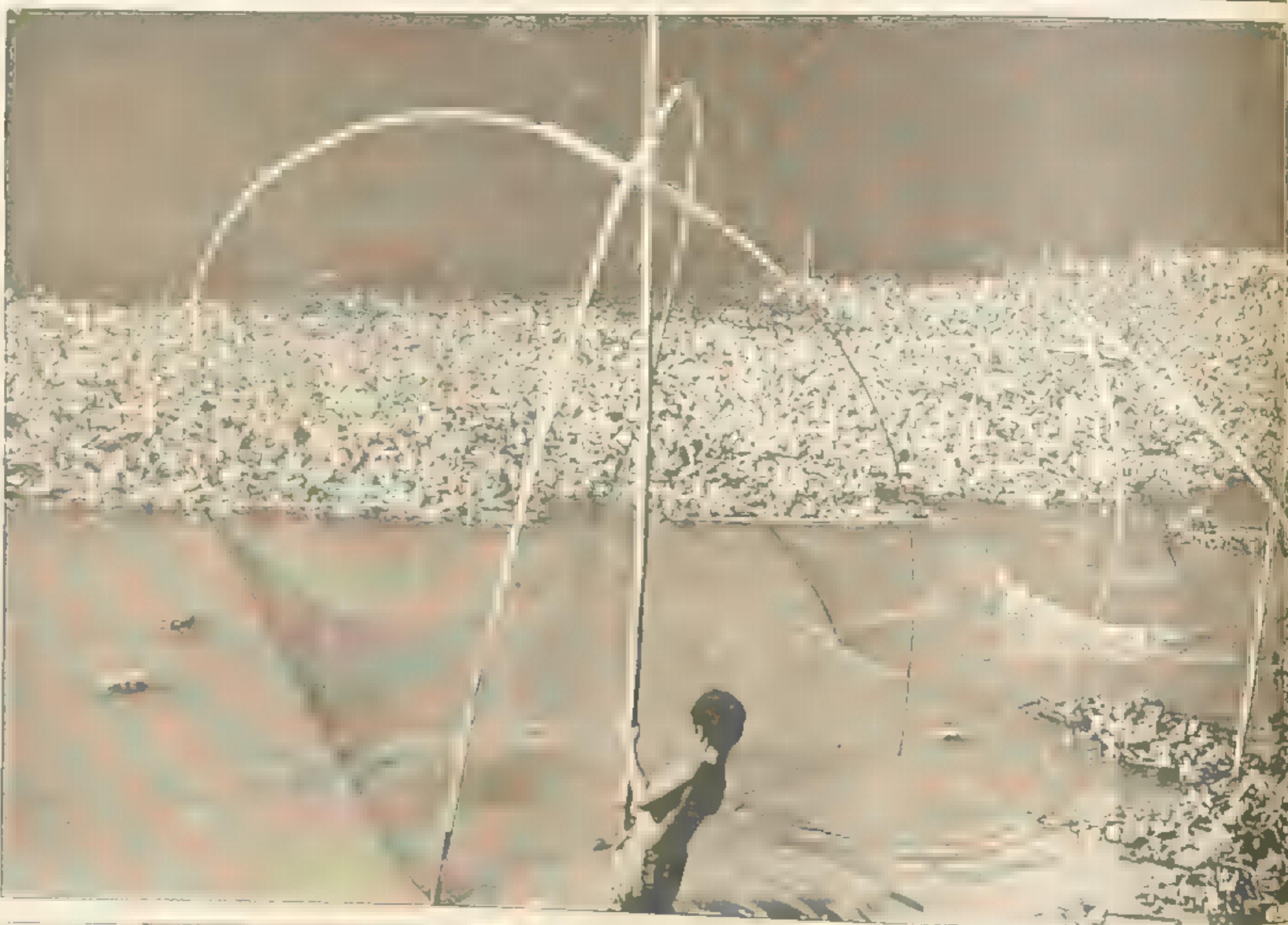
Africa will need to be and has the opportunity to become self sufficient. It has vast natural resources in land, water, fisheries, forestry and ecosystems.

Land not used needs to be harvested yearly. Agriculture needs priority attention. For crops to make any advancement, pests and diseases that plague crops need to be eliminated.

Rural development and existing programs need to be reviewed. This can determine their impact on food security and food sufficiency.

The Food and Agriculture Organization said that a way to insure against famine and hunger is through food security. National stock policies need to be implemented and enforced to aid in the elimination of hunger.

(Clockwise from lower left) UN 146149  
by O Monsen, World Food Programme.  
by Peyton Johnston, World Food  
Programme photo



## The continuation of hunger

Population and food production may ~~rise~~ rise every year, but whether they rise proportionately is the main concern.

During 1982, the world's population rose 1.8 per cent while food production rose 2.2 per cent. Since the percentage of food production was greater than the population growth, 1982 was a good agricultural year.

Some regions were not ~~as~~ as productive as others ~~thus~~ thus, famine and hunger were still present.

The 1983 World Food Report, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization, said that the most important source of dietary energy comes from cereals. Cereals provided protein requirements and ~~livestock~~ livestock.

FAO said that in 1982 the production of cereals was greater than the consumption. This was for the second year in a row. Yet, in low-income food-deficit countries, production did not keep up with population growth.

Africa is the only region failing to keep food production consistent with population increase. FAO said several problems underlie the "disappointing performance ~~in~~ agriculture in Africa."

Since 1969-71, the record of staple food crop production shows more failures than successes, according to FAO. One of the inherent difficulties of farming is the rainfall—it is violent

and irregular. There is also a lack of economic incentives for farmers. Many rural people move to the cities causing there to be even less people farming.

FAO officials have said that for food production to have new vitality, attitudes toward agriculture will have to change.

For at least 20 years the food crisis ~~has~~ been developing. FAO feels that it could just take as long to correct.

Africa, in regions South of the Sahara, is the world's main food problem area. Food production needs to be increased. FAO's work covers collecting, conserving, evaluating genetic resources, improving seed quality, production and distribution, increasing crop output, and preventing losses before harvest. Almost three-fourths of FAO's field programs are dedicated to the increase in crop production.

Another way FAO has initiated to improve food production is to focus on small scale fisheries development, aquaculture, market information, training and resource surveys.

According to FAO, there are more than eight million "fisherfolk" involved in the production of 20 million tons of fish annually. FAO also said that 40 per cent of the world fish catch is converted into meal which is used as food for livestock.

Fred Hutchinson, executive director



(Above) Save the Children by Ken Foreman (Below) Catholic Relief Service photo



(Above)Food and Agriculture Organization, by F. Bolts (Below) Save the Children, by Ken Phillips

of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, "emphasized institution building, likening it to an enzyme that attempts to increase the rate at which change takes place in given environment."

According to *Famine in Africa* by Organization of Africa Unity and FAO, Africa has the potential to achieve food self-sufficiency from a better management of human natural resources in land, water, fisheries, forestry, and ecosystems by the year 2000.

What Africa needs, according to *Famine in Africa* is, "national and regional economic planning, programming, and budgeting in policies that deal with domestic savings and external aid."

Most crops in Africa are grown on non-irrigated land. Draught animals are being replaced rapidly by mechanization. Increasing the use of improved hand tools and draught animals is recommended by the FAO in *Famine in Africa*.

Pests that plague crops need to be

eliminated. "Effective plant protection will necessitate the organization of farmer education campaigns," said FAO.

Concerning livestock production, FAO said there needs to be controlled grazing through better range management and use of crop residues. It also explained a need for a disease surveillance system, vaccination centers, training institutions and the capability of countries to handle animal health problems.

Farmers also need incentives to produce more crops. Farmers need, according to FAO, "better access by small farmers to productive resources, availability of marketing facilities, remunerative processes for agricultural produce, close links between farming and complementary activities, widespread adoption of more intensive techniques and wide availability of social services."

FAO says Africa has to increase its output beyond its immediate consumption in order to overcome hunger.



# Answers to hunger

No easy answers exist in solving the hunger problems of the world, but improving aid programs, both financial and food, must be a top priority before hunger can be diminished.

Recently financial aid to developing countries has been decreasing, according to the January 1983 edition of the *UN Chronicle*.

And although food aid seems to have stabilized, many complications threaten its value.

"Global Assessment of Food-Hunger Problems: 1981," a background paper prepared for World Hunger Day by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, points out two major problems in relation to food aid to developing nations.

Said the authors, "...a growing number of critics now argue that (except in disaster emergency) this pretended gift slows development of

food production in recipient countries, changes eating habits to create a new form of import dependency and is used for political rather than humanitarian ends. Moreover, some countries say food aid is a self-serving device for 'dumping' unwanted surpluses and thereby distorting natural channels of trade."

This report is somewhat echoed by the *UN Chronicle* which explains the matter further stating, "Food aid...has been accused of a host of ill-effects, from reducing local incentives to produce food to causing damaging shifts in food habits, away from local staples to imported wheat, away from breast-feeding to the use of powdered milk."

The FAO paper also tells of the failure of food aid to meet amounts targeted by the World Food Council in 1974. Not in any single year has the 10 million tons per year goal been met.

Never. And 1981 marked the first year that the International Emergency Food Reserve met its goal of 500,000 tons.

All these problems seem to take a backseat to the "waste" that the *Kansas City Times* reports in "The Hunger Game: Our wasted aid."

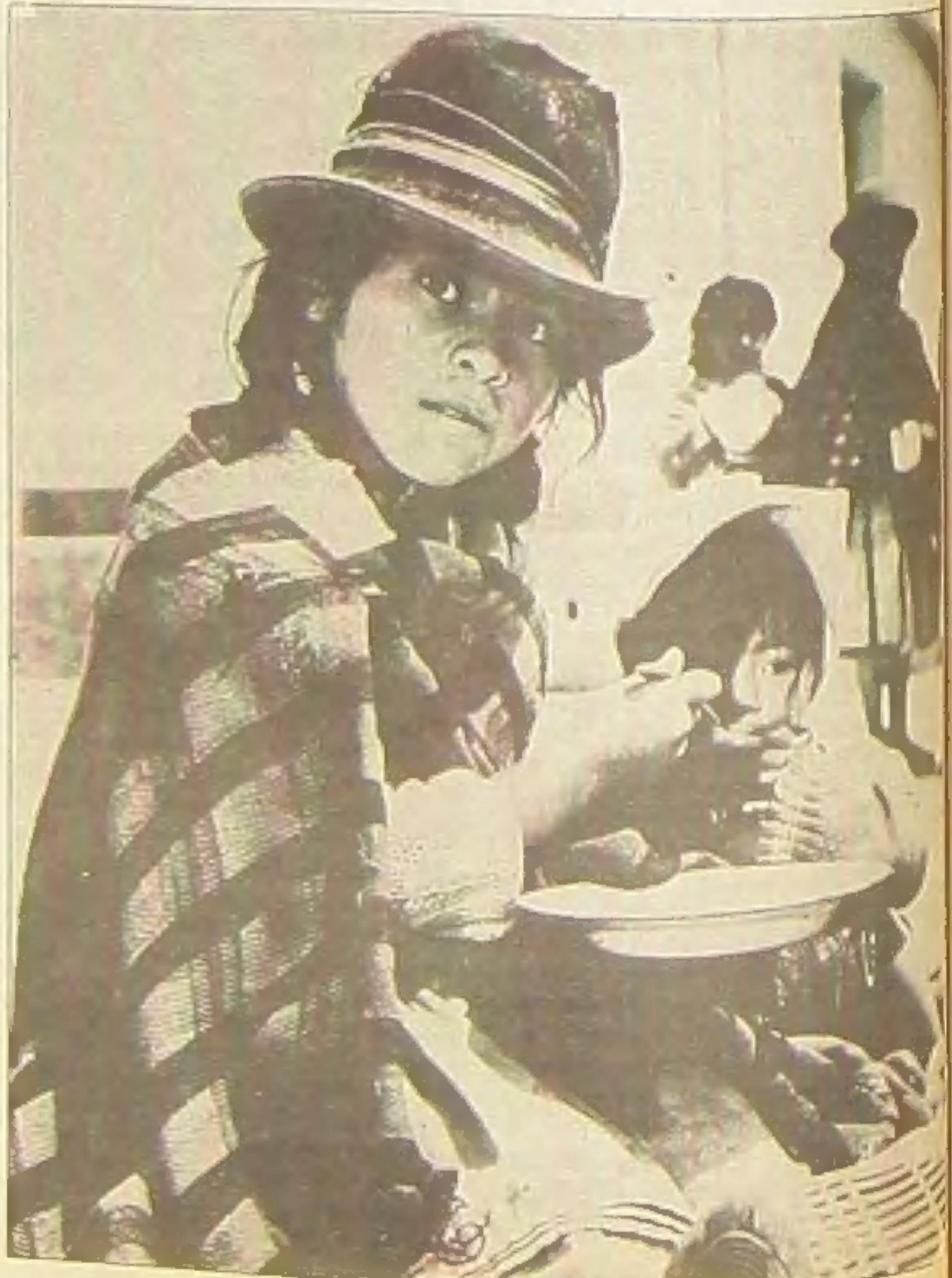
Focusing on the United States' Agency for International Development, the *Times* quotes officials from both AID and the Government Accounting Office who tell the story of unfinished projects, stored grain rotting and infested, donated vehicles abandoned due to lack of parts or due to the inability to purchase fuel, and money and food aid that never seemingly "disappeared."

Blame for these and other problems related to aiding developing countries is not placed on any specific group; the major point of the articles is that presently the aid programs are not effective.

Perhaps the best summation of problems concerning aid comes from a paper written by David L. Guyer, president of Save the Children Foundation.

Speaking on the role that private voluntary organizations (PVO) play in the world food-hunger scenario Guyer said, "The somewhat freewheeling practices of the past must, in the years ahead, be redefined and meshed more carefully and concientedly into overall plans of host country governments."

Guyer told why this must be done by explaining that one day, when PVO involvement either ended or moved to another location, local people will be to be able to "secure the services necessary to their well-being" and the national government eventually will be the supplier.



Catholic Relief Service photos

Incorporating developing nations into global trade markets involves changing previous practices, both on the part of under developed and developed countries.

It has been an established fact that there is enough food produced throughout the world to feed the populations that inhabit the planet; the problem is one of distribution. And proper trade agreements could be one answer to the food-hunger dilemma.

This is the view that "Trade: The worsening balance" puts forth in the *UN Chronicle* of January 1983.

"For the sake of food security, and of over-all development, it is essential to increase the developing countries' share of world exports of agricultural products," reports the article.

This is not an easy task as it will require "opening up markets in developed countries...reducing trade barriers...and finding ways of protecting northern farmers' incomes without generating surpluses of competing products which depress the world market prices."

Thus, effective commodity agreements need to be formed, conclude the authors.

It would appear that this is the most urgent need facing global trade, but it is only one of several international issues.

One question is whether multilateral trade or bilateral trade is most effective.

In June the *UN Chronicle* printed a story telling of the bilateralism trade practices of the 1930's that "proved ruinous" to developing countries.

It suggests a multilateral approach, one that has been tried before, which

would come at a time when nations might be ready to cooperate together.

Developing countries are hurting themselves by not utilizing international trade to its fullest. They place too much emphasis on trading to encourage industrial rather than agricultural development, says the International Food Policy Research Institute.

According to their research, "Food import policies which are inextricably related to general trade policies and balance-of-payments constraints, often hamper national food policies designed to improve production and consumption."

The report also shows hope for the future if certain adjustments in policy are made by these countries.

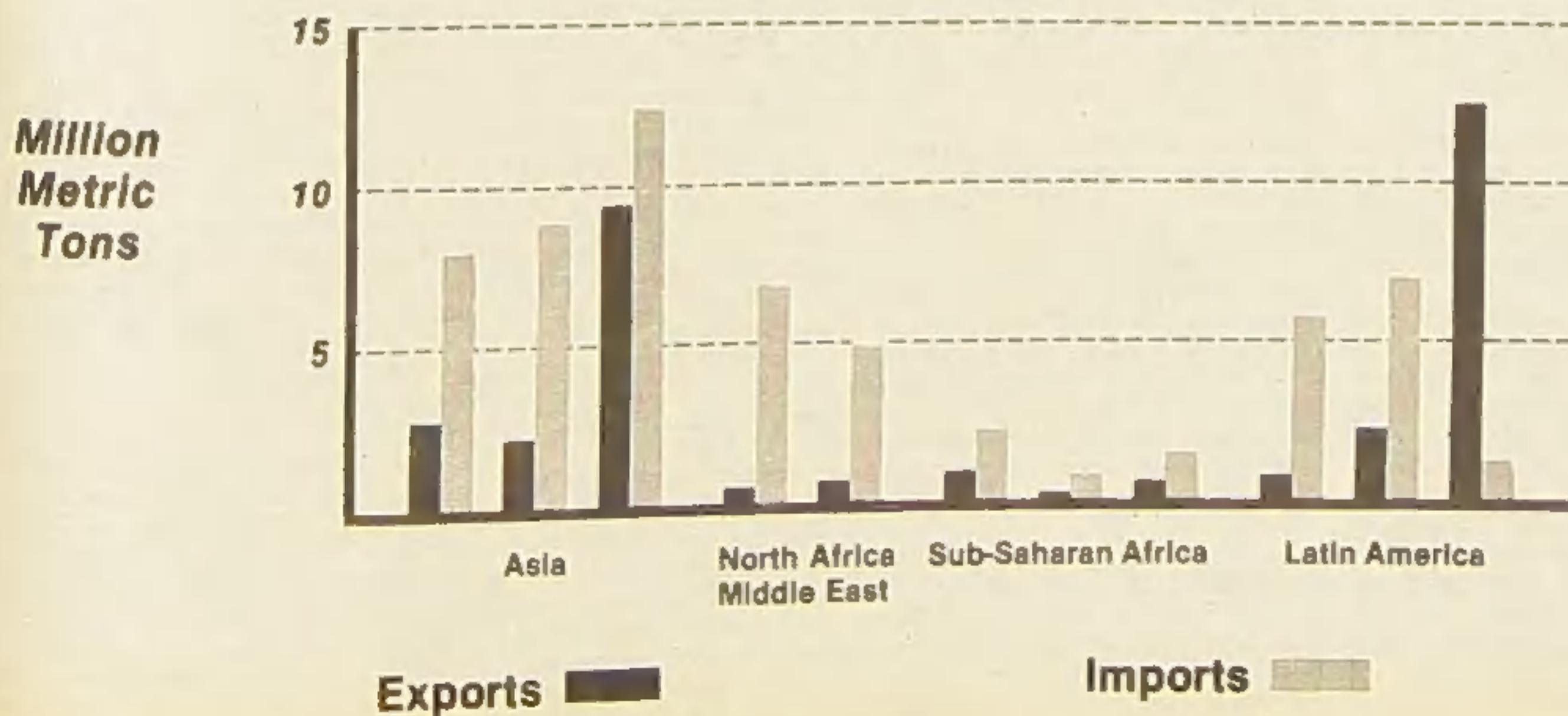
"In addition, the results show that complete stability in prices and consumption—the ultimate objective of any distribution system—can be attained at about one half the present cost with adjustments in import and inventory policies," states the report.

Perhaps the *Chronicle* explains the situation best when it makes clear that all nations could benefit by improving international trade, particularly with developing countries.

In speaking of the potential for long-term growth by developing nations the story says, "If this inherent potential for growth could be realized through the removal of internal and external constraints and through the strengthening or establishing of supportive policies and systems, there would be a new dynamic, of growing importance, in the world economy, with positive consequences for all groups of countries.

## Improving trade in developing countries

Developing countries food trade 1973-75



## World Food-Hunger—pieced together, but unsolved



Baker photo

## Working towards world security

Seeds, a magazine for "Christians concerned about hunger," makes it clear that the world food security problem is one that deals with the inadequate distribution of adequate food supplies.

"If total world food supplies were distributed equally, there would be enough food for everyone," states the article.

This problem of unequal distribution may be the important factor in stabilizing the world food supply, but finding the solution to this situation is not easy, as international organizations have found.

In 1974, representatives from nations around the globe gathered in Rome, Italy, for the first World Food Conference. At that time, a World Food Council was formed, as was an International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Also at the conference, 82 nations adopted an International Understanding on World Food Security. Each country agreed to conduct national reserve policies to help the world maintain minimum stocks, and to assist developing nations in their efforts to increase food production.

Accomplishments have been made, according to January 1983's *U N Chronicle*, but major obstacles do persist. Under the heading "Food Security" in the *Chronicle* it is stated, "...one of the most important elements of an international system of food security—an international grains agreement with stock provisions—is still lacking."

Further, the article adds, "Negotiations towards such an agreement proceeded during the 1970's, but still show no signs of real progress."

Some literature implies that too much emphasis is attached to international solutions. One such case is a report developed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. "Global and regional schemes can back up and reinforce national efforts, but can not substitute for them," states the FAO World Food Report 1983.

In a background paper which was compiled by the FAO for the Community Nutrition Institute and World Food Day ten factors are given in conjunction with the difficulties in achieving world food security and eliminating hunger.

According to the paper—"Global Assessment of Food Hunger Problems: 1981"—some type of internationally structured reserve program must be established. To enforce this position the document says, "In years of global grain shortages (such as 1973-74 and 1979-80), food deficit countries, sometimes near famine are forced onto the commercial market at world prices driven up by the shortage of supply."

And the importance of a situation where prices are driven upward is that "higher prices internationally and nationally have their greatest impact on the people most in need."

Some think that the world has come too far to fall into the troubles which were faced in the distressed years of 1973-74 and 1979-80.

Scott Steele, chief of the international affairs and commodities program for USDA's Office of the Budget and Program Analysis, states that certain steps have been taken to ensure that problems of that magnitude will not occur again.

He is quoted in the September issue of *Horizons*, a publication of the Agency for International Development.

Steele feels that a greater amount of world and national food problems will alleviate the possibility of reoccurrence of these difficulties.

Building up reserve stocks, International Undertaking of Food Security, is a key element in establishing world-wide food security.

Dimensions of Needs is a statistical report of the agricultural problems of the world. It shows that cereal stocks are concentrated in the developed countries. It suggests that developing countries must accept food security for themselves.

World Bank's director of agriculture and rural development, Michael Yudelman, sums up the situation by praising past efforts and looking to the future trade possibilities.

Horizons reports, "We must underestimate the great achievements that have taken place or the potential for great achievements," Yudelman. He continued by stating that the potential for "expanding international trade" can mean more world food supplies.